

FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 9-2001)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER KAW 2 0103
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371			U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>10/031545</b>
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/04625	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 11 July 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 19 July 1999	
TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PURIFYING OXYGEN CONTAINING GAS			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Toshiaki MURATA, Masamichi KIKUCHI, Kazuo ABE			
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:			
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.</p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</p> <p>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</p> <p>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</p> <p>d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).</p> <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</p> <p><b>Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</b></p> <p>11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</p> <p>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</p> <p>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <b>FIRST</b> preliminary amendment.</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> preliminary amendment.</p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</p> <p>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</p> <p>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.</p> <p>18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:</p> <p>1. Notification of the Recording of a Change</p> <p>2. Notification Concerning Submission or Transmittal of Priority Document</p>			

531 Rec'd PCT/PT

18 JAN 2002

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.55) 10/031545 INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/JP00/04625

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

KAW 2 0103

21. ☒ The following fees are submitted:**BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):**

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482)  
nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO  
and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO . . . . . \$1040.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to  
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Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30  
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CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$
Total claims	9 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$
Independent claims	2 - 3 =	0	x \$84.00	\$
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$280.00	\$

**TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =**

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☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above  
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\$

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\$

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Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be  
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**NOTE:** Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR  
1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Richard J. Minnich

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN, MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP  
1100 SUPERIOR AVENUE, SEVENTH FLOOR  
CLEVELAND, OH 44114-2518

SIGNATURE

Richard J. Minnich

NAME

24,175

REGISTRATION NUMBER

10/031545  
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Toshiaki Murata et al.  
Serial No. : Unknown  
Filed : Herewith  
Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PURIFYING  
OXYGEN CONTAINING GAS  
Attorney Docket : KAW 2 0103

Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1-14.

Please add new claims 1-9 as follows:

1. A method for purifying an oxygen containing gas comprising:  
a first step of generating ozone in the oxygen containing gas;  
a second step of radiating ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength of 200 nm or longer, but shorter than 300 nm, to the gas treated in the first step to form active oxygen; and

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a third step of radiating ultraviolet rays of a wavelength of 300 nm or longer, but shorter than 380 nm, to the gas treated in the second step to convert said active oxygen into an oxygen molecule in a ground state, at least one of said second step or said third step being conducted in the presence of a photocatalyst including at least one of particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system or particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system supporting fine particles of another metal.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said first step is a step of radiating ultraviolet rays of a short wavelength of shorter than 200 nm to the oxygen containing gas.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein said particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system are particles of brookite.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the metal further comprises a step of irradiating the oxygen containing gas treated in said third step, with rays radiated from an infrared lamp and with rays radiated from a halogen lamp to dry the gas.

5. An apparatus for purifying an oxygen containing gas comprising:

a first treating room having means of supplying the oxygen containing gas and a device for generating ozone in the supplied oxygen containing gas;

a second treating room connected to the first treating room and having a device of radiating ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength of 200 nm or longer, but shorter than 300 nm;

a third treating room connected to the second treating room and having a device of radiating ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength of 300 nm or longer, but shorter than 380 nm; and

means for discharging the oxygen containing gas treated in the third treating room outside the apparatus, at least a part of wall surfaces of at least one of said second treating room or

said third treating room to which the ultraviolet rays are radiated being covered with a photocatalyst including at least one of particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system or particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system supporting particles of another metal.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said device for generating ozone is a device for radiating ultraviolet rays of a wavelength of 100 nm or longer, but shorter than 200 nm.

7. The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system are particles of brookite.

8. The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said third treating room is further provided with a drying room wherein a portion for irradiating the oxygen containing gas treated in the third treating room, with rays radiated from an infrared lamp and a portion for irradiating the oxygen containing gas treated in the third treating room, with rays radiated from a halogen lamp are installed in order.

9. The method according to claim 2 wherein said particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system are particles of brookite.

#### REMARKS

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is now in better condition for examination.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard J. Minnich  
Reg. No. 24,175

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,  
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP  
1100 Superior Avenue  
Seventh Floor  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2518  
(216) 861-5582

## SPECIFICATION

Method and Apparatus for Purifying Oxygen Containing Gas

## TECHNICAL FIELD

5           The present invention relates to a method and an apparatus for purifying an oxygen containing gas. More specifically, the present invention relates to a method and an apparatus for purifying an oxygen containing gas by which not only an air can be disinfected or deodorized and an air  
10           which is preferably used for clean rooms can be purified, but also hardly decomposable organic compounds contained in an air and inorganic air pollutants such as NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, CO, and ammonia can be decomposed to make them harmless.

## BACKGROUND ART

15           As methods for purifying an oxygen containing gas (hereinafter, sometimes referred to as an air for brevity), (1) a method wherein ozone is generated in an air by using an ozone generating device and then diffused, (2) a method wherein disinfection of an air is performed by using a  
20           germicidal lamp, and (3) a method wherein an HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filter or a chemical filter which is installed for clean rooms or others is used are heretofore known.

          However, there are such problems that the ozone  
25           diffusing method of (1) emits ozone which is harmful to human bodies; that the method of (2) can not instantaneously disinfect a large quantity of air since the method

principally uses ultraviolet rays of a wavelength of 254 nm and thus does not form active oxygen, and the method of (2) does not have an effect in the shadow portions of an germicidal lamp; and further that the method of (3) using an HEPA filter only captures bacteria with the filter, does not have an effect of disinfection, and has defects such that when a chemical filter is used, a long time is required for exchanging the filter whereas a disinfecting effect can be produced, and when a time appropriate for exchanging the filter was past, bacteria propagate contrary to expectations. Besides, it was impossible by the methods described above to decompose and remove hardly decomposable organic compounds, for example, chlorine containing aromatic compounds when these compounds are contained in an air to be treated.

#### 15 DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to resolve the problems in conventional technology described above and to provide a method and an apparatus for purifying an air by which a large quantity of an air to be treated (hereinafter, sometimes the words "to be treated" are omitted for brevity) can instantaneously be disinfected, deodorized, and purified, and an air which is harmless to men and beasts can be regenerated. Another object of the present invention is to provide a method and an apparatus for purifying an air by which chains between carbon atoms, for example, single bonds, double bonds, triple bonds in hardly decomposable organic compounds can be severed to decompose the compounds into low

molecular weight compounds such as carbonic acid gas and water even when the hardly decomposable organic compounds are contained in an air.

The method for purifying an air according to the present invention is characterized by radiating ultraviolet rays to an air in the presence of a photocatalyst comprising titanium oxide. More specifically, the method of the present invention for purifying an air comprises a first step for radiating ultraviolet rays of a short wavelength of, for example, 110 nm or longer, but shorter than 200 nm to an air to generate ozone in the air, a second step for further radiating ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength of 200 nm or longer, but shorter than 300 nm to the air treated in the first step to form active oxygen, and a third step for still further radiating ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength of 300 nm or longer, but shorter than 380 nm to the air treated in the second step to convert the active oxygen into oxygen molecule in ground state, at least the second and/or the third step being conducted in the presence of a photocatalyst.

The step for generating ozone in an air is not limited to a step wherein the ultraviolet rays described above are radiated, but includes a step wherein silent discharge is conducted in an air.

The photocatalyst generally comprises particles of a photo-semiconductor such as titanium dioxide. When desired, the photocatalyst comprises particles in which fine particles of a metal such as silver are supported as an electrode on



the particles of the photo-semiconductor. As the particles of a photo-semiconductor, particles of titanium oxide of a tetragonal crystal system (anatase type or rutile type) well known in the art can be used, but particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system or particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system supporting fine particles of another metal are desirably used in particular. As the particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system, particles of brookite are most desirable. Particles of titanium oxide of a different crystal system or particles of a photo-semiconductor other than titanium oxide may be used together.

In the method of the present invention, the air treated in the third step described above is preferably dried by further irradiating the air with rays (usually or mainly infrared rays) radiated from an infrared lamp and with rays (mainly near infrared rays) radiated from a halogen lamp. In this connection, while the method of the present invention can be applied for purifying various gases containing oxygen, the method is most advantageously applied for purifying an air.

The apparatus of the present invention for purifying an air comprises a first treating room having means for supplying the air and a device for generating ozone in the air, for example, a device for radiating ultraviolet rays of a short wavelength of 110 nm or longer, but shorter than 200 nm to the air, a second treating room connected to the first

treating room and having a device for radiating ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength of 200 nm or longer, but shorter than 300 nm to the air supplied from the first treating room, a third treating room connected to the second treating room and having a device for radiating ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength of 300 nm or longer, but shorter than 380 nm to the air supplied from the second treating room, and means for discharging the air treated in the third treating room outside the apparatus, the second and/or the third treating room having a photocatalyst.

As the photocatalyst used in the apparatus, the same as or similar to the apparatus described above with respect to the method of the present invention can be used.

The apparatus of the present invention is preferably provided, in the third treating room described above, with a drying room wherein a portion for irradiating an oxygen containing gas with rays radiated from an infrared lamp and a portion for irradiating the oxygen containing gas with rays radiated from a halogen lamp are installed.

While the apparatus of the present invention can also be applied for purifying various gases containing oxygen, the apparatus is most advantageously applied for purifying an air.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Fig. 1 is a schematic drawing for illustrating an example of the apparatuses of the present invention for purifying an air.

The symbols shown in the drawing indicate the following

devices, parts, portions, and the like, respectively.

1 ... an apparatus for purifying an air, 2 ... a casing,  
3 ... an air introducing port, 3A ... a filter, 4 ... an air  
discharging port, 4A ... a suction blower, 5 ... a device for  
5 radiating ultraviolet rays of a short wavelength, 6 ... a  
first treating room, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, and 16 ... partition  
walls, 9 ... a second treating room, 10 ... a device for  
radiating ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength, 13 ... a  
device for radiating ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength,  
10 14 ... a third treating room, 17 ... a drying room, 18 ... an  
infrared lamp, 19 ... a photocatalyst, 20 ... a halogen lamp,  
A ... an air.

#### BEST EMBODIMENT FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

The present invention is to form oxygen in singlet  
15 state and super oxide which are sources of active oxygen by  
radiating ultraviolet rays to an air, particularly to promote  
the generation of the sources of active oxygen described  
above by conducting irradiation with ultraviolet rays of a  
medium wavelength and with ultraviolet rays of a long  
20 wavelength in the presence of a specific photocatalyst at  
that time, and not only to disinfect and deodorize the air  
but also to decompose hardly decomposable organic compounds  
contained in the air by a large energy (a little over 22.5  
kcal/mol) of the active oxygen sources.

25 The behavior (in a dried atmosphere) of oxygen caused  
by irradiation with ultraviolet rays of each of the  
wavelengths preferably used in the present invention is shown

below.

- (1) Irradiation with ultraviolet rays of a short wavelength  
(110 to 200 nm):

$O_2 + h\nu$  (ultraviolet rays of a short wavelength in a  
vacuum ultraviolet region)  $\rightarrow 2O(^3P)$  (oxygen atom in  
ground state)

$O(^3P) + O_2 \rightarrow O_3$  (ozone)

- (2) Irradiation with ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength  
(200 to 300 nm):

$O_3 + h\nu$  (ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength which  
is a DNA absorption wavelength)  $\rightarrow 2O(^1D)$  (oxygen atom  
in singlet state) +  $O_2(^1\Delta)$  (oxygen molecule in singlet  
state)

$2O(^1D) \rightarrow O_2^-$  (super oxide)

In a humid atmosphere, the following reaction also  
occurs:

$O(^1D)$  (oxygen atom in singlet state) +  $H_2O \rightarrow 2\cdot OH$   
(hydroxy radical)

- (3) Irradiation with ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength  
(300 to 380 nm):

$2O(^1D) + h\nu$  (ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength)  $\rightarrow$   
 $O_2$  (oxygen molecule in ground state)

$O_2^-$  (super oxide) +  $h\nu$  (ultraviolet rays of a long  
wavelength)  $\rightarrow O_2$  (oxygen molecule in ground state)

In a humid atmosphere, the following reaction also  
occurs:

$2\cdot OH$  (hydroxy radical)  $\rightarrow O(^3P)$  (oxygen atom in ground

state) + H<sub>2</sub>O

In the irradiation with ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength and the irradiation with ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength, when a photocatalyst is present, electrons are ejected on the surface of a catalyst, the electrons act on oxygen atoms in ground state to form active oxygen anions, and the active oxygen anions bond each other to form super oxides having a strong disinfecting power. Further, the super oxides are converted into oxygen atoms in ground state by receiving radiation of ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength.

$h\nu$  (ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength of 200 to 300 nm)  $\rightarrow$  Hole<sup>+</sup> (positive hole on a catalyst) + e<sup>-</sup>

(electron ejected on the surface of the catalyst)

e<sup>-</sup> + O(<sup>3</sup>P) (oxygen atom in ground state)  $\rightarrow$  O<sup>-</sup> (active oxygen anion)

2O<sup>-</sup> (active oxygen anion)  $\rightarrow$  O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> (super oxide)

O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> (super oxide) +  $h\nu$  (ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength of 300 to 370 nm)  $\rightarrow$  O<sub>2</sub> (oxygen molecule in ground state)

In a humid atmosphere, the following reaction also occurs:

Hole<sup>+</sup> + OH<sup>-</sup>  $\rightarrow$  ·OH (hydroxy radical)

In the method and the apparatus of the present invention, all oxygen containing gases such as exhaust gases containing hardly decomposable organic compounds or inorganic air pollutants, in addition to an air which contains bacteria

or odor, are the objects of the purification.

The photocatalyst used in the present invention comprises particles of titanium oxide as particles of a photo-semiconductor or particles of the titanium oxide supporting, as an electrode, fine particles of a metal such as silver. The photocatalyst is coated with an adsorption material such as powders of a ceramic, when necessary. As the titanium oxide, while an anatase type or rutile type titanium oxide of a tetragonal crystal system, and titanium oxide of orthorhombic crystal system can be used, titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system is preferably used in the present invention. As the particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system, particles of brookite are specifically mentioned, and the brookite may be a natural product or synthesized product. The titanium oxide ( $\text{TiO}_2$ ) particles may comprise particles of a different crystal system as a component of the particles when necessary, and can be used in a mixture with particles of another photo-semiconductor, for example,  $\text{CdS}$ ,  $\text{CdSe}$ ,  $\text{WO}_3$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{SrTiO}_3$ , or  $\text{KNbO}_3$ . As fine particles of a metal used as an electrode, fine particles of gold, platinum, or copper can be used in addition to silver particles. The diameter of the particles of a photo-semiconductor is preferably in the range of 1 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ . The diameter of fine particles of a metal is preferably 0.05 to 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$ . The mixing ratio of particles of a photo-semiconductor with fine particles of a metal is preferably 1 to 55 parts by weight and desirably 20 to 30

parts by weight in particular of the metal fine particles per 100 parts by weight of the photo-semiconductor particles to suitably exert their disinfecting and deodorizing actions.

The adsorption material is used to adsorb bacteria and

5 viruses from an air and maintain them, and an activated

carbon and silk fiber containing product in addition to

powders of a ceramic, for example, powders of apatite

(asparagus stone), zeolite, or sepiolite can be used. As the

apatite, hydroxy apatite  $[\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2]$  which selectively

10 adsorbs bacteria and viruses is preferable. The particle

diameter of these adsorption materials (in the case of a silk

fiber containing product, the particle diameter of powders)

is preferably 0.001 to 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$  and desirably 0.01 to 0.05  $\mu\text{m}$

in particular when securing a large surface area and a good

15 adsorbing property are taken into consideration. The mixing

ratio of particles of a photo-semiconductor with an

adsorption material is preferably 1 to 50 parts by weight and

desirably 10 to 30 parts by weight in particular of the

adsorption material per 100 parts by weight of the photo-

20 semiconductor particles.

In the present invention, a photocatalyst is adhered on

a substrate to which an air contacts. As such substrate, a

metallic plate, ceramic board, nonwoven fabric, for example,

polyester fiber nonwoven fabric, paper, woven fabric, and

25 plastic plate or sheet are mentioned. As the method for

adhering the photocatalyst, a method wherein a photocatalyst

is directly adhered to a substrate by a low temperature flame

spray coating process without using a binder, and a sol-gel process, that is, a process wherein a sol comprising a photocatalyst (photo-semiconductor particles, metal fine particles, and an adsorbing material), a film forming

5 component as inorganic binder, and a solvent is adhered on a substrate and then the sol is gelatinized, for example, at 300 to 400°C are mentioned. In this case, other components may additionally be contained, when necessary.

In the low temperature flame spray coating process, for  
10 example, particles (5 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ ) of titanium oxide having a melting point of lower than 2000°C and fine particles (1 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ) of the metal described above are sprayed onto the substrate described above by a gas flame spray coating process using oxygen, acetylene, or the like, together with a  
15 ceramic melted at about 2900 to 3000°C. After the flame spray coating, the photocatalyst particles become particles in a flat and piled shape of 30 to 40  $\mu\text{m}$ , and are strongly adhered on the substrate by an anchor effect by melting.

On the other hand, in the method wherein a binder is  
20 used, a resin used for forming a film such as a cellulose derivative, phthalic resin, phenol resin, and alkyd resin known in the public, talc, calcium carbonate, barium sulfate, barium carbonate, or glass in a shape of beads is used as film forming component. As the solvent, water, an alcohol  
25 type solvent such as ethanol and propanol, petroleum type solvent, and aromatic type solvent can be used. The total blending amount of particles of a photo-semiconductor, fine



particles of a metal, and an adsorption material when they are coated as paint is preferably 3 to 55 % by weight and desirably 15 to 35 % by weight in particular based on the total amount of paint in order to exert actions such as

5 disinfection and deodorization and to secure an appropriate coatability.

When a titanium oxide of tetragonal crystal system is used as photocatalyst, a titanium oxide in which all crystals are in a shape of anatase crystal has a strong oxidizing

10 power and thus sometimes deteriorates the substrate. Accordingly, in such a case, it is preferable to make the weight ratio of anatase type crystals to rutile type crystals in titanium oxide powders, which are raw materials in the paint, 20 to 50 % : 50 to 80 %. When the ratio of anatase

15 type crystals is lowered, the action of the photocatalyst becomes weak that much.

On the other hand, when titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system is used as catalyst, it is possible to sever chains between carbon atoms in organic

20 compounds which were difficult to decompose by titanium oxide of anatase type or rutile type, and to decompose aromatic rings to convert the organic compounds back into simple compounds such as carbonic acid gas, water, and the like. However, since the action of the photocatalyst is strongest

25 and the catalyst readily deteriorates substrate, it is necessary to use a substrate, paint, or the like which is hardly oxidized.

As fine particles of another metal, while powders of a metal such as vanadium and tungsten in addition to silver, gold, platinum, and copper having a good conductivity are used, powders of platinum are most preferable in the aspect that they are not changed with the passage of time and are stable. However, when cost efficiency is considered, powders of silver are preferable since they are nontoxic and have disinfecting property by themselves. Besides, from the aspect of producing a promoter effect, powders of vanadium or tungsten are preferable. The diameter of fine particles of these metals is preferably 0.001 to 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  when the relation with titanium oxide particles is considered. The mixing ratio of the titanium oxide particles described above with metal fine particles described above is preferably 1 to 55 parts by weight and more desirably 20 to 30 parts by weight of the metal fine particles per 100 parts by weight of the titanium oxide particles in order to suitably exert purifying action.

The radiation of ultraviolet rays is performed by using ultraviolet lamps which generate ultraviolet rays of the predetermined wavelengths described above and are available on the market, or performed by radiating ultraviolet rays through a silica glass which selectively transmits ultraviolet rays of a specific wavelength.

As devices for radiating ultraviolet rays used in the present invention, mercury lamps, metal halide lamps, ultraviolet lamps, and lamps for exciting a photocatalyst

each generating ultraviolet rays of a predetermined wavelength can be used. As an ultraviolet lamp for radiating ultraviolet rays of a short wavelength, a chemical lamp can be used. Besides, as for ultraviolet rays of a short, medium, or long wavelength, ultraviolet mercury lamps can be used. The ultraviolet mercury lamps employ emission spectrum of mercury enclosed in a silica glass tube, are divided into a low pressure type (by which strong UV rays are produced in the range of wavelengths shorter than 245 nm) and a high pressure type (by which strong UV rays are produced in the range of wavelengths longer than 365 nm) by the pressure of mercury vapor in a lighted condition, and can be used for medium wavelengths and long wavelengths, respectively. Further, the lamps for exciting a photocatalyst include W type and N type fluorescent lamps having a peak at 351 nm and 368 nm, respectively (as described, for example, in Construction Equipments (Kenchiku Setsubi) and Pipe Arrangement (Haikan Kouji) No. 6, 1998, pages 47 to 50), and the W type and N type fluorescent lamps can be used for ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength and a long wavelength, respectively. With respect to a photocatalyst, it is sufficient that the photocatalyst is adhered on the inside walls or partition walls in a room in which ultraviolet rays are radiated and through which an air is passed, and it is possible to install fin-like catalyst plates on the walls described above so that the catalyst plates cross the path of the air to increase a catalyst effect. As the devices for

radiating the three kind of ultraviolet rays described above,  
a device generating at least ultraviolet rays of a wavelength  
of 183 to 184 nm, as a device for radiating ultraviolet rays  
of a short wavelength; a device generating at least  
5 ultraviolet rays of a wavelength of 254 nm, as a device for  
radiating ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength; and a  
device generating at least ultraviolet rays of 310 to 370 nm,  
as a device for radiating ultraviolet rays of a long  
wavelength, are preferable.

10 Now, the present invention is described in more detail  
with reference to drawing.

Fig. 1 is a schematic drawing for illustrating an  
example of the apparatuses of the present invention for  
purifying an air. This apparatus 1 is mainly composed of  
15 casing 2 through which air A to be treated is passed, air  
introducing port 3 provided at an end of the casing 2 and  
having filter 3A, air discharging port 4 provided at the  
other end of the casing 2 and having suction blower 4A, three  
treating rooms of first treating room 6 having device 5 for  
20 radiating ultraviolet rays of a short wavelength, second  
treating room 9 connected to the first treating room 6  
through partition walls 7 and 8 and having device 10 for  
radiating ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength, and third  
treating room 14 connected to the second treating room 9  
25 through partition walls 11 and 12 and having device 13 for  
radiating ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength provided in  
the direction from the air introducing port 3 toward the air

discharging port 4 in order, and drying room 17 connected to the third treating room 14 through partition walls 15 and 16. Device 5 for radiating ultraviolet rays of a short wavelength generates ultraviolet rays of a wavelength of 110 nm or longer, but shorter than 200 nm (preferably 110 to 185 nm), device 10 for radiating ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength generates ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength of 200 nm or longer, but shorter than 300 nm (preferably 210 to 260 nm), and device 13 for radiating ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength generates ultraviolet rays of 300 nm or longer, but shorter than 380 nm (preferably 310 to 370 nm). Besides, on the partition walls 8 and 11 and the inside walls of the casing in the second treating room 9, and the partition walls 12 and 15 and the inside walls of the casing in the third treating room 14, photocatalyst 19 is adhered or coated.

Further, infrared lamp 18 is installed in drying room 17, and the drying room is arranged so that the air purified in the third treating room is discharged from air discharging port 4 after the air was dried. In each of the devices 5 and 10 for radiating ultraviolet rays, for instance, two electrodes are installed within a silica glass tube and vapor of a metal such as mercury under a predetermined pressure is enclosed in the tube so that ultraviolet rays of the specific wavelength described above are obtained by applying a predetermined potential difference to the electrodes. As device 13 for radiating ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength,

the device forming ultraviolet rays of the long wavelength described above can be used.

In the apparatus described above, air A to be treated is introduced into first treating room 6 from air introducing port 3 after the air passed through filter device 3A, and subjected here to the irradiation with ultraviolet rays from device 5 for radiating ultraviolet rays of a short wavelength to generate ozone as described above. The bacteria and the like contained in the air is disinfected by the oxidizing action of the ozone. The air discharged from first treating room 6 is entered into second treating room 9 and then subjected here to the irradiation with ultraviolet rays from device 10 for radiating ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength to form active oxygen such as oxygen molecules in singlet state and super oxides as described above by the action of the ultraviolet rays and the action of photocatalyst 19, thereby performing disinfection and deodorization of the air as well as oxidative destruction of the organic compounds. Then, the air containing such active oxygen is moved into third treating room 14, subjected here to the irradiation with ultraviolet rays from device 13 for radiating a long wavelength to convert the super oxides into oxygen molecules in ground state and further to purify the air by the energy released at that time. The purified air is moved into drying room 17, is dried by irradiation with infrared rays (heat rays) from infrared lamp 18, absorbs heat rays from halogen lamp 20, and then discharged outside from

air discharging port 4.

The method and the apparatus of the present invention can widely be applied for treatments to make exhaust gases containing hardly decomposable organic compounds, for example, chlorine containing aromatic compounds such as dioxin or inorganic compounds such as NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, CO, NH<sub>3</sub>, and the like nontoxic, in addition to treatments for preventing nosocomial infection (infection by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and the like), providing clean rooms used in medical care or food processing, or deodorizing the air within ducts or tobaccos.

#### Example 1

By using a testing apparatus similar to that shown in Fig. 1, five kind in total of aerosols A containing bacteria (10<sup>8</sup> CFU/ml) or viruses (10<sup>7</sup> PFU/ml) were separately blown from air introducing port 3 of the testing apparatus into the apparatus. On the other hand, a filter for capturing organisms was fitted to air discharging port 4 and the organisms were trapped. From the filter, bacteria or viruses were emigrated, cultivated on the following mediums, and then determined. (Test was conducted twice.)

Bacteria and mediums, and viruses and cells:

Escherichia coli ATCC 35150 (pathogenic *escherichia coli* O-157)

Dezoxycolate medium

Staphylococcus aureus IFO 12732 (*staphylococcus aureus* MRSA)

Mannitol salt medium

Pseudomonas aeruginosa GNB-139 (*pseudomonas aeruginosa*)

NAC agar medium

Bacillus subtilus spore (*bachillus subtilus* spore)

5 Mannitol salt medium

Coxsackie virus Type B6 Schmitt strain

HEL-R66 cell (cell derived from human embryonic lung)

204040-545400  
 10 The number of survived bacteria or viruses, survival ratio, and disinfected ratio at the time when germicidal lamps in the testing apparatus were lighted up were determined with those at the time when the germicidal lamps were put out (only a fan (suction blower) was operated) being control. The combination of test conditions were six kinds of F (control), S, S + M, S + M + L, S + M + L + R, and S + M  
 15 + L + R + H. Herein, F indicates that only the fan was operated (and all lamps were put out); S indicates that the fan was operated and device 5 for radiating ultraviolet rays of a short wavelength (S) was lighted up; M indicates that device 10 for radiating ultraviolet rays of a medium  
 20 wavelength (M) was lighted up, L indicates that device 13 for radiating ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength (L) was lighted up; R indicates that infrared lamp 18 for radiating infrared rays (R) was lighted up; and H indicates that halogen lamp 20 (H) was lighted up, respectively. The  
 25 results thus obtained are shown in Tables 1 to 5.



Table 1 Disinfecting effect on pathogenic escherichia coli  
O-157 by an air disinfecting apparatus

Germi- cidal lamp	Test	Number of survived bacteria CFU/filter	Survival ratio %	Disin- fected ratio %
F (con- trol)	1	$1.2 \times 10^3$	100	0
	2 .....	$1.2 \times 10^3$	100	0
	Average	$1.2 \times 10^3$	100	0
S	1	20	1.7	98.3
	2 .....	10	0.8	99.2
	Average	15	1.3	98.7
S+M	1	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
	2 .....	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
	Average	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
S+M+L	1	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
	2 .....	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
	Average	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
S+M+L+R	1	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
	2 .....	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
	Average	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
S+M+L+R +H	1	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
	2 .....	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
	Average	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2

- 5 F: Only the fan was operated (all lights were put out),  
S: the fan was operated and S was lighted up, M: M was  
lighted up, L: L was lighted up, R: R was lighted up,  
and H: H was lighted up.

Table 2 Disinfecting effect on staphylococcus aureus  
MRSA by an air disinfecting apparatus

Germi- cidal lamp	Test	Number of survived bacteria CFU/filter	Survival ratio %	Disin- fected ratio %
F (con- trol)	1	$2.2 \times 10^3$	100	0
	2 .....	$2.1 \times 10^3$	100	0
	Average	$2.2 \times 10^3$	100	0
S	1	20	0.9	99.1
	2 .....	10	0.5	99.5
	Average	15	0.7	99.3
S+M	1	20	0.9	99.1
	2 .....	10	0.5	99.5
	Average	15	0.7	99.3
S+M+L	1	<10 Not detected	<0.5	>99.5
	2 .....	<10 Not detected	<0.5	>99.5
	Average	<10 Not detected	<0.5	>99.5
S+M+L+R	1	<10 Not detected	<0.5	>99.5
	2 .....	<10 Not detected	<0.5	>99.5
	Average	<10 Not detected	<0.5	>99.5
S+M+L+R +H	1	<10 Not detected	<0.5	>99.5
	2 .....	<10 Not detected	<0.5	>99.5
	Average	<10 Not detected	<0.5	>99.5

- 5 F: Only the fan was operated (all lights were put out),  
S: the fan was operated and S was lighted up, M: M was  
lighted up, L: L was lighted up, R: R was lighted up,  
and H: H was lighted up.

Table 3 Disinfecting effect on pseudomonas aeruginosa  
by an air disinfecting apparatus

Germi- cidal lamp	Test	Number of survived bacteria CFU/filter	Survival ratio %	Disin- fected ratio %
F (con- trol)	1	$1.2 \times 10^3$	100	0
	2 .....	$1.1 \times 10^3$	100	0
	Average	$1.2 \times 10^3$	100	0
S	1	30	2.5	97.5
	2 .....	20	1.8	98.2
	Average	25	2.1	97.9
S+M	1	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
	2 .....	<10 Not detected	<0.9	>99.1
	Average	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
S+M+L	1	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
	2 .....	<10 Not detected	<0.9	>99.1
	Average	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
S+M+L+R	1	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
	2 .....	<10 Not detected	<0.9	>99.1
	Average	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
S+M+L+R +H	1	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2
	2 .....	<10 Not detected	<0.9	>99.1
	Average	<10 Not detected	<0.8	>99.2

- 5 F: Only the fan was operated (all lights were put out),  
S: the fan was operated and S was lighted up, M: M was  
lighted up, L: L was lighted up, R: R was lighted up,  
and H: H was lighted up.

Table 4 Disinfecting effect on bacillus subtilus spore  
by an air disinfecting apparatus

Germi- cidal lamp	Test	Number of survived bacteria CFU/filter	Survival ratio %	Disin- fected ratio %
F (con- trol)	1	$1.5 \times 10^3$	100	0
	2 .....	$1.4 \times 10^3$	100	0
	Average	$1.5 \times 10^3$	100	0
S	1	30	2.0	98.0
	2 .....	20	1.4	98.6
	Average	25	1.7	98.3
S+M	1	20	1.3	98.7
	2 .....	20	1.4	98.6
	Average	20	1.3	98.7
S+M+L	1	20	1.3	98.7
	2 .....	10	0.7	99.3
	Average	15	1.0	99.0
S+M+L+R	1	<10 Not detected	<0.7	>99.3
	2 .....	<10 Not detected	<0.7	>99.3
	Average	<10 Not detected	<0.7	>99.3
S+M+L+R +H	1	<10 Not detected	<0.7	>99.3
	2 .....	<10 Not detected	<0.7	>99.3
	Average	<10 Not detected	<0.7	>99.3

- 5 F: Only the fan was operated (all lights were put out),  
S: the fan was operated and S was lighted up, M: M was  
lighted up, L: L was lighted up, R: R was lighted up,  
and H: H was lighted up.

Table 5 Deactivating effect on coxsackie virus  
by an air disinfecting apparatus

Germi- cidal lamp	Test	Number of survived viruses PFU/filter	Survival ratio %	Deacti- vated ratio of virus %
F (con- trol)	1	$8.8 \times 10^2$	100	0
	2 .....	$7.6 \times 10^2$	<u>100</u>	<u>0</u>
	Average	$8.2 \times 10^2$	100	0
S	1	$2.0 \times 10^2$	22.7	77.3
	2 .....	$1.2 \times 10^2$	<u>15.8</u>	<u>84.2</u>
	Average	$1.6 \times 10^2$	19.5	80.5
S+M	1	$1.6 \times 10^2$	18.2	81.8
	2 .....	$1.0 \times 10^2$	<u>13.2</u>	<u>86.8</u>
	Average	$1.3 \times 10^2$	15.9	84.1
S+M+L	1	60	6.8	93.2
	2 .....	<u>40</u>	<u>5.3</u>	<u>94.7</u>
	Average	50	6.1	93.9
S+M+L+R	1	<20 Not detected	<2.3	>97.7
	2 .....	<20 Not detected	<u>&lt;2.6</u>	<u>&gt;97.4</u>
	Average	<20 Not detected	<2.4	>97.6
S+M+L+R +H	1	<20 Not detected	<2.3	>97.7
	2 .....	<20 Not detected	<u>&lt;2.6</u>	<u>&gt;97.4</u>
	Average	<20 Not detected	<2.4	>97.6

- 5 F: Only the fan was operated (all lights were put out),  
S: the fan was operated and S was lighted up, M: M was  
lighted up, L: L was lighted up, R: R was lighted up,  
and H: H was lighted up.

10 As will be understood from Tables 1 to 5, escherichia  
coli of  $1.2 \times 10^3$  CFU in average (in the case where only the  
fan was operated) became less than 10 CFU (not detected) in

average by lighting up of two germicidal lamps S and M (Table 1). *Staphylococcus aureus* of  $2.2 \times 10^3$  CFU in average (in the case where only the fan was operated) became less than 10 CFU (not detected) in average by lighting up of three

5 germicidal lamps S, M, and L (Table 2). *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* of  $1.2 \times 10^3$  CFU in average (in the case where only the fan was operated) became less than 10 CFU (not detected) in average by lighting up of two germicidal lamps S and M (Table 3). *Bacillus subtilus* spore of  $1.5 \times 10^3$  CFU in  
10 average (in the case where only the fan was operated) became less than 10 CFU (not detected) in average by lighting up of three germicidal lamps S, M, and L, and lamp R (Table 4). *Coxsackie virus* of  $8.2 \times 10^2$  PFU in average (in the case where only the fan was operated) became less than 20 (not  
15 detected) in average by lighting up of three germicidal lamps S, M, and L, and lamp R (Table 5).

The disinfected ratio of the *escherichia coli* was 98.7 % in average when only germicidal lamp S was lighted up and higher than 99.2 % in average when germicidal lamp M was  
20 further lighted up. The disinfected ratio of the *staphylococcus aureus* was 99.3 % in average when two germicidal lamps S and M were lighted up and higher than 99.5 % when germicidal lamp L was further lighted up. The disinfected ratio of the *pseudomonas aeruginosa* was 97.9 % in  
25 average when only germicidal lamp S was lighted up and higher than 99.2 % when germicidal lamp M was further lighted up. The disinfected ratio of the *bacillus subtilus* spore was

99.0 % in average when three germicidal lamps S, M, and L were lighted up and higher than 99.3 % when lamp R was further lighted up. The deactivated ratio of coxsackie virus was 93.9 % in average when three germicidal lamps S, M, and L were lighted up and higher than 97.6 % when lamp R was further lighted up.

In the tests described above, the quantity of ozone generated in and discharged from the testing apparatus was large (the smell of ozone around the testing apparatus was sharp), and thus the limit of the time for atomizing bacteria or viruses, and recovering them in one test was 5 minutes at longest.

When a concentrated liquid containing  $10^8$  CFU/ml of bacteria or a liquid containing  $10^7$  PFU/ml of viruses was atomized in each of the tests, about  $10^3$  of bacteria or about  $10^2$  of viruses were detected at the exit side (air blowoff side) of the apparatus at the operation of the fan only (control), but the bacteria and viruses became "not detected" as described above when ultraviolet rays were radiated. Accordingly, the effect of disinfecting bacteria or deactivating viruses by the germicidal lamps in the testing apparatus is high, and the organisms adhered on the inside walls or the like of the apparatus are considered to be killed by the lighting up of germicidal lamps and an activating action by a catalyst.

With respect to the bacteria such as *escherichia coli*, *staphylococcus aureus*, and *pseudomonas aeruginosa*,

disinfecting effect of higher than 99 % in terms of  
disinfecting ratio can be expected by lighting up of three  
germicidal lamps S, M, and L. Whereas bacillus subtilus  
spore and coxsackie virus are high in resistance to  
5 ultraviolet rays and the activating action by the catalyst  
compared with the bacteria described above, disinfection of  
the bacterium at a disinfecting ratio of higher than 99 % or  
the effect of deactivating the virus can be expected by  
lighting up of lamp R in addition to the germicidal lamps S,  
10 M, and L.

#### Example 2

An experiment for purifying an air was conducted by  
employing a testing apparatus similar to that shown in Fig. 1  
and using, as air to be used, an air containing 10 ppm of  
15 acetaldehyde as organic compound. On the inside walls of  
each of the device 10 for radiating ultraviolet rays of a  
medium wavelength and the device 13 for radiating ultraviolet  
rays of a long wavelength in the apparatus shown in Fig. 1,  
particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system  
20 (particles of brookite) were adhered as photocatalyst in the  
present invention. The result of the experiment is shown in  
Table 6. The result obtained when particles of a  
conventional anatase type titanium oxide were adhered on the  
walls is shown together as comparison in Table 6, and it can  
25 be understood from the Table that the content of acetaldehyde  
in the air was remarkably reduced in the case of the present  
invention.



Table 6

	Photocatalyst	Residual ratio of acetaldehyde
Example	TiO <sub>2</sub> of orthorhombic crystal system (brookite)	1 %
Comparative Example	TiO <sub>2</sub> of tetragonal crystal system (anatase type)	10 %

## INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

5           According to the present invention, purification  
treatments such as disinfection and deodorization of an air  
can efficiently be performed by radiating ultraviolet rays of  
predetermined wavelengths to the air in the presence of a  
photocatalyst; when particles of titanium oxide of an  
10 orthorhombic crystal system are used as catalyst in  
particular, it is possible to sever chains between carbon  
atoms (including, for example, double bonds, triple bonds, C-  
C bonds, and aromatic rings) in organic compounds contained  
in an air to oxidize and decompose the compounds down to low  
15 molecular weight compounds (carbonic acid gas and water); and  
thus purification treatments of exhaust gases containing  
hardly decomposable organic compounds becomes possible.

## CLAIMS

1. A method for purifying an oxygen containing gas comprising radiating ultraviolet rays to the oxygen containing gas in the presence of a photocatalyst comprising titanium oxide.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the method comprises a first step for generating ozone in the oxygen containing gas, a second step for further radiating ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength of 200 nm or longer, but shorter than 300 nm to the gas treated in the first step to form active oxygen, and a third step for still further radiating ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength of 300 nm or longer, but shorter than 380 nm to the gas treated in the second step to convert said active oxygen into oxygen molecule in ground state, at least said second and/or third step being conducted in the presence of a photocatalyst.

3. The method according to claim 2 wherein said first step is a step for radiating ultraviolet rays of a short wavelength of shorter than 200 nm to the oxygen containing gas.

4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said photocatalyst comprises particles of titanium oxide supporting, as an electrode, fine particles of another metal.

5. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said photocatalyst comprises particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system, or particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system supporting fine

particles of another metal.

6. The method according to claim 5 wherein said particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system are particles of brookite.

5 7. The method according to claim 2 or 3 wherein the method further comprises a step for irradiating the oxygen containing gas treated in said third step, with rays radiated from an infrared lamp and with rays radiated from a halogen lamp to dry the gas.

10 8. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein said oxygen containing gas is an air.

9. An apparatus for purifying an oxygen containing gas comprising a first treating room having means for supplying the oxygen containing gas and a device for generating ozone  
15 in the supplied oxygen containing gas, a second treating room connected to the first treating room and having a device for radiating ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength of 200 nm or longer, but shorter than 300 nm, a third treating room connected to the second treating room and having a device for  
20 radiating ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength of 300 nm or longer, but shorter than 380 nm, and means for discharging the oxygen containing gas treated in the third treating room outside the apparatus, said second and/or third treating room having a photocatalyst comprising titanium oxide.

25 10. The apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said device for generating ozone is a device for radiating ultraviolet rays of a short wavelength of 110 nm or longer, but shorter

than 200 nm.

11. The apparatus according to claim 9 or 10 wherein said photocatalyst comprises, as particles of photo-semiconductor, particles of titanium oxide supporting, as an electrode, fine particles of another metal.

12. The apparatus according to claim 9 or 10 wherein said photocatalyst comprises particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system, or particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system supporting fine particles of another metal.

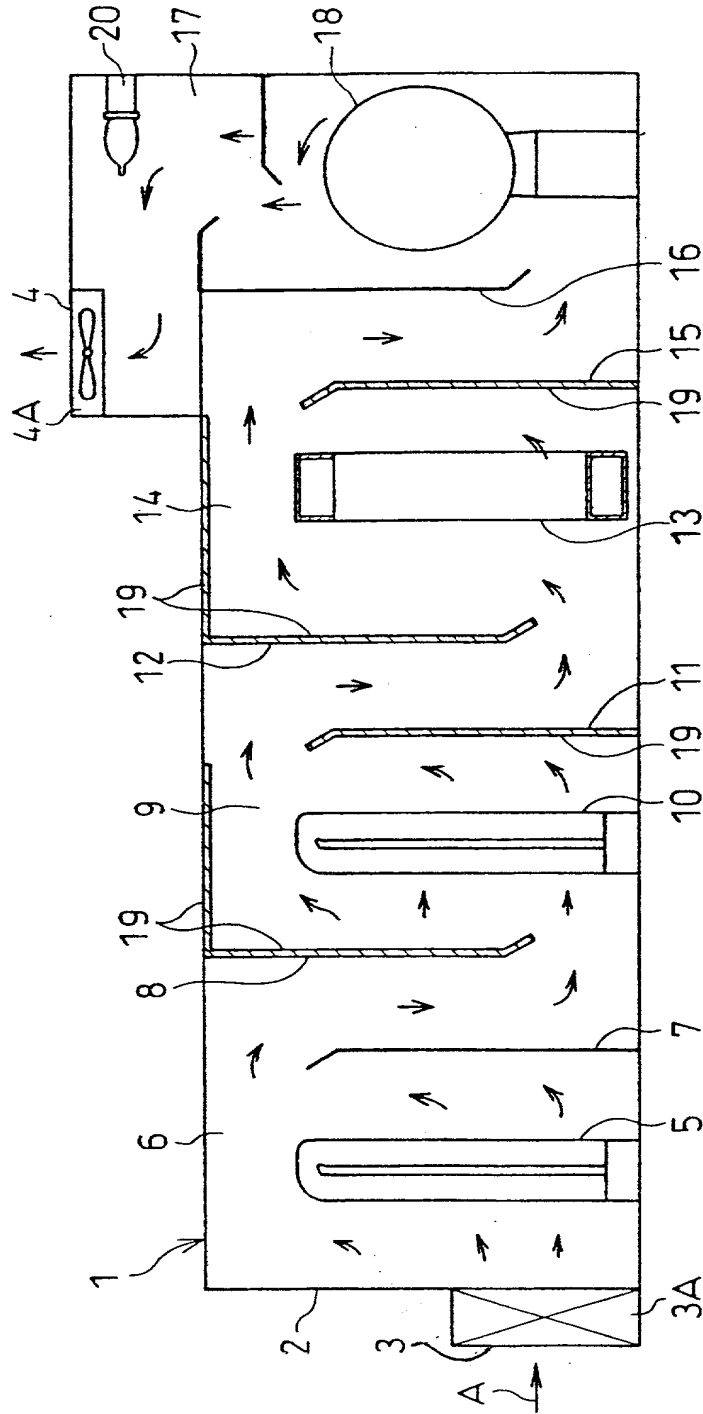
13. The apparatus according to claim 12 wherein said particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system are particles of brookite.

14. The apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said third treating room is further provided with a drying room wherein a portion for irradiating the oxygen containing gas treated in the third treating room, with rays from an infrared lamp and a portion for irradiating the oxygen containing gas treated in the third treating room, with rays from a halogen lamp are installed in order.

## ABSTRACT

An object of the present invention is to provide a method and an apparatus for purifying an oxygen containing gas by which not only the oxygen containing gas can be  
5 instantaneously disinfected, deodorized, and purified, but also hardly decomposable organic compounds contained in the gas can be decomposed into low molecular weight compounds such as carbonic acid gas and water; and the method comprises a first step for radiating ultraviolet rays of a short  
10 wavelength of 110 nm or longer, but shorter than 200 nm to the gas, for example, an air to be treated to generate ozone, a second step for radiating ultraviolet rays of a medium wavelength of 200 nm or longer, but shorter than 300 nm to the air treated in the first step to form active oxygen, and  
15 a third step for radiating ultraviolet rays of a long wavelength of 300 nm or longer, but shorter than 380 nm to the air treated in the second step to convert the active oxygen into oxygen molecule in ground state, at least the second and/or third step being conducted in the presence of a  
20 photocatalyst comprising particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system or particles of titanium oxide of an orthorhombic crystal system supporting fine particles of another metal.

Fig. 1



# COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

(宣誓書及び委任状)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below), or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below), of the subject matter claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Method and Apparatus for Purifying Oxygen Containing Gas

the specification of which: (check one) ☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was filed on July 11, 2000

as Application Serial No. PCT/JP00/04625

and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to examination of this application according to Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application (s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date earlier than that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed:

## Prior Foreign Application(s)

## Priority Claimed

<u>Hei 11-204763</u> (Number)	<u>Japan</u> (Country)	<u>19th July 1999</u> (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Hei 11-351940</u> (Number)	<u>Japan</u> (Country)	<u>10th December 1999</u> (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>2000-022384</u> (Number)	<u>Japan</u> (Country)	<u>31st January 2000</u> (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120, of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior applications in manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
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_____ (Application Serial No.)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
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I hereby appoint the following attorneys/agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and with any divisional, continuation, continuation-in-part, reissue or re-examination application with full power of appointment and substitution of associate attorneys and agents, and to receive all patents which may issue thereon: Thomas E. Beall, Jr., Reg. No. 22,410; Michael J. Colitz, Reg. No. 37,010; Joseph D. Dreher, Reg. No. 37,123; Christopher B. Fagan, Reg. No. 22,987; Jude A. Fry, Reg. No. 38,340; John X. Garred, Reg. No. 31,830; Michael E. Hudzinski, Reg. No. 34,185; Jeffrey M. Ketchum, Reg. No. 31,174; Richard M. Klein, Reg. No. 33,000; Thomas E. Kocovsky, Jr., Reg. No. 28,383; Sandra M. Koenig, Reg. No. 33,722; Petar Kraguljac, Reg. No. 38,520; Scott A. McCollister, Reg. No. 33,961; James W. McKee, Reg. No. 26,482; Shrinath Malur, Reg. No. 34,663; John R. Mattingly, Reg. No. 30,293; Richard J. Minnich, Reg. No. 24,175; Jay F. Moldovanyi, Reg. No. 29,678; Philip J. Moy, Reg. No. 31,280; Timothy E. Nauman, Reg. No. 32,283; Sue Ellen Phillips, Reg. No. 32,046; Patrick R. Roche, Reg. No. 29,580; Alan J. Ross, Reg. No. 33,767; Albert P. Sharpe, III, Reg. No. 19,879; Daniel J. Stanger, Reg. No. 32,846; Eric A. Stephenson, Reg. No. 38,321; Mark S. Svat, Reg. No. 34,261; John C. Tiernan, Reg. No. 21,078; John M. Vasuta, Reg. No. 38,353. Address all correspondence to: FAY, SHARPE, BEALL, FAGAN, MINNICH & McKEE

[ ] 104 East Hume Avenue  
Alexandria, Virginia 22301 (703) 684-1120

[X] 1100 Superior Avenue, Suite 700  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114 (216) 861-5582

I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

発明者

発明者フルネームサイン

氏名タイプ欄

Date February 6, 2002 Inventor Toshiaki Murata Toshiaki MURATA  
c/o Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding Co., (Typed Name and Signature)  
Residence Ltd., 6-4, Tsukiji 5-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan SPX Citizenship Japan  
Post Office Address The same address as the above

Date February 6, 2002 Inventor Masamichi Kikuchi Masamichi KIKUCHI  
1-2-11, Koishikawa 2-chome, Bunkyo-ku, (Typed Name and Signature)  
Residence Tokyo, Japan SPX Citizenship Japan  
Post Office Address The same address as the above

Date February 6, 2002 Inventor Kazuo Abe Kazuo ABE  
c/o Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding Co., (Typed Name and Signature)  
Residence Ltd., 6-4, Tsukiji 5-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan SPX Citizenship Japan  
Post Office Address The same address as the above

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Inventor \_\_\_\_\_ (Typed Name and Signature)  
Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Inventor \_\_\_\_\_ (Typed Name and Signature)  
Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Inventor \_\_\_\_\_ (Typed Name and Signature)  
Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_